## BOOK REVIEWS

The Amirate of the Al Ali in the Hail Region and Its Relations with the First and Second Saudi States and the Reform Movement in Najd, by Muhammad M. Al Ali

Reviewed by Prof. Dr. Muhammad S. al-Khudayri

(235 - 240)

## BOOKS IN BRIEF

(241 - 246)

## DOCUMENTS

***Hamad A. al-Angari***

**Documentary Studies on Arabia and the Gulf;**

**1) Biographies of Prominent Gulf Personalities in the British Archives**

This article studies 49 biographies of individuals who lived on the Arabian Gulf coasts gleaned from a report in the British Archives on biographies of a number of important personalities of the Arabian Gulf prepared by the agents of the British Resident Ross. These biographies include mention of their activities, positions, social status, dates of birth, names of their children and wives, their possessions and the languages they spoke, all according to a format prepared for this purpose.

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## TRANSLATED ARTICLES

***"To Arabia in Search of Date Palm Offshoots" by V.W. Dawson***

***Translated by Dr. Muhammad Abahsain***

In 1950 (A.H. 1369), the traveler Dawson was assigned the task of studying the possibility of planted date palms in Somalia. In order to test that in a practical manner, he set up a nursery for date palm offshoots in Somalia, after having purchased the offshoots themselves from their native regions. For this reason, he visited two agricultural regions: Hadramaut and al-Ahsa.

In this lecture, Dawson describes his journey to al-Ahsa, mentioning the warm welcome and hospitality accorded him by the amir, who also offered him the assistance necessary to accomplish his goal.

He praised the date palms of the region and the agriculturalists' knowledge of them, especially the renewal of the fertility of the soil, and the methods they used to assure successful pollination, as well as the steps which help to ensure a bountiful and excellent harvest.

He praised the cultural renaissance in the Kingdom and the speed of development, explaining that most of the income which the government derived from oil was given over to the construction of roads and buildings, as well as wireless communications.

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*Husayn A. al-Tarabulsi*

### Records of Solar and Lunar Eclipses in Ibn Iyas al-Hanafi's Bada'i al-Zuhur Compared with Modern Astronomical Calculations

This article studies the 17 solar and 40 lunar eclipses recorded by Ibn Iyas in his book 'Bada'i al-zuhur fi waq'i al-duhur', beginning in A.H.487 (1094) until A.H.928 (1522), with the exception of approximately three centuries(A.H. 495 - 778) for which period Ibn Iyas did not record any eclipses whatsoever. Most of the solar eclipses recorded by Ibn Iyas were partial eclipses, described in vague terms from which it is impossible to determine the extent of the eclipse.

In addition, Ibn Iyas erroneously recorded two solar eclipses, and he omitted to mention the total eclipsed which happened during his lifetime in Rajab A.H. 892 (9/7/1488), despite the fact that the sky was not cloudy at the time, as the eclipse occurred during the month of July.

Some significant observations on the records of Ibn Iyas are referred to, including his omission of the date, the month or the time, and exaggeration in the description of the darkness as being total despite the fact that the eclipses were only partial.

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*Dr. Atif M. Ramadan*

### A Commemorative Gold Coin Commemorating the Foundation of the Tughluq Dynasty in India

The study is devoted to a commemorative gold coin which was struck on the occasion of the foundation of the Tughluq sultanate of Delhi in India (A.H. 720 - 815/1320-1413).The weight of the coin is 43.55 grams and its diameter is 22mm. It was part of the collection of William Kazan in Beirut, and then was acquired by the National Museum of Qatar which purchased the collection.

The coin was struck for Sultan Ghiyath al-Din Tughluq Shah, and was not made for his son Sultan Muhammad, as mentioned by Kazan. It bears some Islamic inscriptions as well as the name of the Khilji sultan Ala' al-Din Muhammad Shah, which was an attempt to gain the support of the Khalji amirs for the rule of Ghiyath al-Din Tughluq Shah soon after his accession.

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# CONTENTS

## ARTICLES

***Dr. Saad A. al-Ubaysi***

**The Policies of Abu Bakr and Umar in Dealing with the Ridda and Resolving Its Problems**

This study deals with the manner in which Abu Bakr and Umar dealt with the Ridda movement and resolved its problems. After the death of the Prophet Muhammad, the people divided into four groupings: one group remained as it had been during the Prophet's lifetime; the second group continued to practice Islam but contributed only little zakat; the third group apostatized, while the fourth and final group waited to see which of the other three parties would emerge victorious.

Abu Bakr's manner of dealing with the Ridda movement was characterized by his ascertaining the facts and waiting and proceeding carefully, beginning with military preparations, followed by clarification of the truths of Islam to the apostates and elucidation of their errors, calling upon them to return to the fold of Islam, and finally the declaration of war against those who persisted in their apostasy.

On the other hand, Umar's task was to resolve the problems which arose from the Ridda wars and their effects. He permitted those who returned to the fold to occupy governmental positions and participate in the wars of conquest. In addition, he returned their property that had been taken from them.

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***Dr. Khalaf D. al-Wadhinani***

**Faysal b. Abd al-Aziz's Campaign in Asir (A.H.1340-41/1922-23)**

This paper presents the events which took place during Prince Faysal b. Abd al-Aziz's campaign to quash the rebellion of Hasan b. Ayidh in the Asir region, during which Ibn Ayidh incited the tribes against the state.

Prince Faysal confronted Ibn Ayidh's attempts to distract him with secondary battles, as well as his use of al-Harmala, a fortified mountain fastness, as his headquarters. The Prince was able to put an end to the revolt and restore peace and security to the region.

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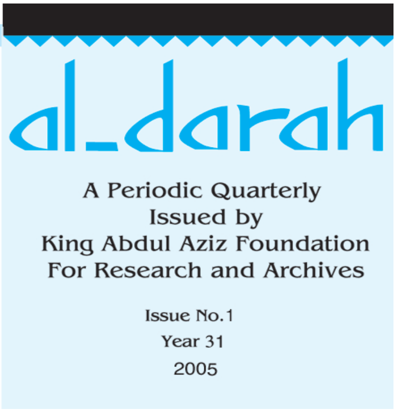

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